

# Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

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THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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## Windsor Rabbi Coming Here

The annual series of the Oneg Shabbat will be concluded this year on Friday night, March 5, when Rabbi Benjamin Groner of the Shaar Hashomayim Congregation, Windsor, Ontario will be the guest speaker.

A distinguished graduate of the Hebrew Theological College of Chicago, Rabbi Groner is one of the youngest men ever to have passed the State of Illinois Bar examinations; he preferred the rabbinate, however, to the practice of law. His first pulpit was in Salt Lake City, Utah; his second, in Chicago, where he accepted the call from the present synagogue. Although he has been in Windsor for but a few months, he already has won a large following.

During his visit in Ottawa Rabbi Groner will be at the home of his cousin by marriage, Rabbi Fasman.

## Rooms, Please, Rooms

The desperate need of Jewish newcomers in our city to find a room with a Jewish family continues to increase. People who have come here for government work vital for the war effort, refugees from prominent European families, and service men who, upon being posted here, have brought their wives are entitled to our cooperation. Whether you need the income or not, please rent out that spare room. List it at once with Miss Helen Abelson, at 4-3264.

### BEN ROSE REPEATS

Having won the award of merit for the best news story of the year published in any Ottawa newspaper during 1941, Mr. Ben Rose, of the Journal staff, carried off the same honours a second time for the year 1942. Mr. Rose is active in the Tel. Aviv Tennis Club, and was recently initiated into the Ottawa Bnai Brith Lodge.

## Overseas Honor Roll

To the previous lists published in the Bulletin of Ottawa men on active service overseas, we have been advised to add the following names:

Abrahamson, L.A.C. Roy.

Cohen, P. O. Philip.

Diamond, Pte. S.

Gennis, L.A.C. Max.

Levitin, F. O. Nathan.

Viner, Pte. Joseph.

## Rabbi Fasman at Hillel

Returning the recent visit of Rabbi Gilbert Klapperman, the spiritual leader of the Kingston Jewish community and the director of the Hillel Foundation at Queen's University, Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman will go to Kingston for the week-end of Feb. 26-28, where he will address the Oneg Shabbat services at the Synagogue on Friday night and the Jewish students of Hillel on Sunday night. Arrangements have also been made for our rabbi, as the Jewish Chaplain in Military District No. 3, to take over the religious parade of Jewish personnel in the Kingston area on Sunday Morning.

## The Refugees Situation

A number of refugees from Nazi Europe have been approved by the Dominion authorities for employment in Ottawa. Such people greatly desire to become acquainted with the members of our Jewish community, and every form of hospitality and friendliness shown them will be highly appreciated.

It is suggested that questions arising on this subject should be referred to a committee of the Bnai Brith, under the chairmanship of Mr. M. R. Freedman, that is undertaking to assist the younger men especially, or to Rabbi Fasman.

## Y. P. L. SABBATH



Dr. David W. Petegorsky.

The annual Oneg Shabbat sponsored by the Jewish Young People's League will be held at the Cong. Agudath Achim, Rideau St., on Friday night February 26th., at 8.45 p.m.

The president of the League, Mr. David Wolochow, is proud to announce that for the occasion Dr. David Petegorsky, of the National Film Board, will be the guest speaker. Dr. Petegorsky is widely known as one of the most brilliant young thinkers in the field of political science, and, as an ordained rabbi of the Isaac Elchanan Seminary, he is thoroughly qualified to occupy a pulpit. He has chosen for the topic of his address, "Muddling Through to Peace."

### FRIDAY EVENING ADDRESSES

The schedule for the final month of the Oneg Shabbat, led by Rabbi O. Z. Fasman at the Cong. Agudath Achim, Rideau St., is announced as follows:

Feb. 12: "Here I Worship"

Feb. 19: "What is a Community?"

Feb. 26: Dr. David Petegorsky.

(Y. P. L. Sabbath)

March 5: Rabbi Benjamin Groner.  
Cantor Aaron Weiss is in charge of the Zemirot.



# The Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

Published Monthly By

THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Oscar Z. Fasman, Rabbi

A. J. Freiman .....	President
C. Caplan .....	Hon. Vice-President
Thomas Sachs .....	Vice-President
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## Prospects For A Community Centre

When the Vaad Ha'ir created a special committee to investigate the problem of building a Jewish Community Centre in Ottawa, a hope of long standing was awakened. For years we have been talking of the need for such an institution, but the wishes never took concrete form. It always seemed easier to view as insurmountable the obstacles and difficulties that would be encountered than to attack them methodically and overcome them. Everybody knew why Ottawa ought to have such a centre, everybody was cognizant of the totally inadequate facilities at the Talmud Torah for large meetings and banquets, everybody talked about the young people of the City who lacked an opportunity for social contacts and the young people from other cities who arrived to become nowhere acquainted, yet the proposal to build something could not get by the hard fact of financing.

Recent campaigns in Ottawa, however, have made it clear that we are capable of mighty accomplishment, when the cause has a strong general appeal. We have become, that is, a real community. Once this truth is recognized, it becomes feasible to attempt an undertaking of wide scope.

It remains for all who are interested in this work to elevate the welfare of the community at large above any personal inclinations. It is obvious that the bigger scheme cannot be carried through successfully, unless those who have a voice in our synagogues and organizations are prepared to surrender some of their individual privileges. Careful planning will have due regard for historical values and sentimental attachments, but the watchword of the program must be, a greater accent upon the possibilities of the future than upon the events of the past. If any ancient prejudices are permitted to interfere with the progressive advancement of the cause, the whole idea might collapse; and a setback at this time will be so discouraging that a generation will be lost before a revival. Here, as in most social situations, to part with a smaller right is to acquire a greater good.

Let opinions be expressed freely, but let those who bring forth a thought ask themselves first, "Is it the community, or my own little group, in whose interest I am speaking?"

## The Privilege To Participate

The success of the Vaad Ha'ir War Services Campaign was assured when, at an initial meeting called together by the Chairman, Mr. Harold Coplan, over half of the goal was subscribed by less than twenty-five contributors. In these times no great pressure is needed to receive a generous response to an appeal that embraces the sending of comfort boxes to more than one hundred Ottawa Jewish service men overseas, treats for our boys in this area, support of non-sectarian huts in and around Ottawa, and the establishment of a full time service men's hostel here. Curiously enough, or perhaps not so curiously after all, the families who have already given the most important contribution to the war effort, a son or sons, are generally included among the earliest and the most enthusiastic gives to the financial undertakings; it remains for the others to hasten towards the privilege of participation.

Yet the facts prove a sad tale. Because each person has no doubt that the objective will be attained, he sits back and waits for the honor of a visit by members of the committee. Whereas he ought to be going around himself among his friends to offer them a chance to take part in an invaluable endeavor, whereas he ought to consider himself an active wheel in the machinery, he does not even take the trouble to attend a meeting, so confident is he that the results will be satisfactory. What he fails to consider is that those who have agreed to carry the banner do not deserve a cold shower, and their spirit ought to be kept aflame by his forthright approval.

Remember, the War Services Campaign this year does not beg of you to give; it offers you the privilege to participate. Send in a cheque worthy of yourself at once.

## Where Are The Women?

In the turmoil of Canadian business our men have not yet discovered a method of arranging their affairs to attend the synagogue on Saturday morning, but where are the women? Having made every allowance for those who have nobody at home to take care of their babies, and for those who are employed on Saturday, we still wonder why there not many more women at the Sabbath services. Can it be that our Jewish mothers no longer see any need for prayer? Is Jewish life so happy today, is humanity so completely at ease, that they cannot discover anything to pray for?

Pity the Jewish artist! Once upon a time he painted his mother with a prayer-book in her hand, crying unto the Ribono Shel Olam for His blessing. How is he to draw her now? Sorting out the ivory of Mah Jong? Dashing down the street for a Saturday bargain at the store?

The crisis truly warrants greater attendance at religious worship than at any previous age in history. In the present scene it is the duty of our women to take the lead, and we are positive that large numbers of them can manage to be at schul on Shabbos morning. Unused in its pew, a Siddur is a forlorn article; in the hands of a praying woman, it becomes a thing of beauty—and of that beauty a sweet radiance is reflected in her eyes.



## Smoked Meats

Once again the Vaad Hakashruth advises the Jewish Community that:

1. The local standards for kosher smoked meats are, at the present time, not being met by any Ontario manufacturer of such products.

2. The only stores in Ottawa where the smoked meats are under Vaad Hakashruth supervision are the three kosher meat markets.

3. Whoever arranges an affair in a Synagogue or in the Talmud Torah must consult with the rabbi about any smoked meats that are to be used.

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### VAAD HA'IR AND CENTRE

At a well attended meeting of the Ottawa Vaad Ha'ir, held in the Talmud Torah on January 28, with Mr. A. J. Freiman in the Chair, a committee was appointed with Alex Betcherman at its head, to study the possibilities and suggest plans for building a Jewish Community Centre in Ottawa after the war. Warm enthusiasm greeted this forward-looking step in the community.

At the same meeting the veteran communal leader, Mr. C. Caplan, was elevated to the office of Hon. Vice-President of the Vaad Ha'ir, and Mr. Simon J. Ritt was elected as the second Vice-President.

A presentation was made to Mr. L. Harry Goldman, the secretary of the Vaad Ha'ir, upon the occasion of his recent marriage.

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### MONTREAL GUEST AT HADASSAH

Mrs. H. Singer of Montreal, a national vice-president of Canadian Hadassah, will be the guest speaker at a tea in aid of Youth Aliyah work, sponsored by the Ottawa Council of Hadassah, to be held at the Talmud Torah Auditorium Monday night, February 15th.

Great interest is now being shown in the activities of Youth Aliyah, because hundreds of new children, refugees from Europe, are entering the Holy Land from Teheran, and large sums are required to house, feed, clothe and educate the newcomers. Hope also runs high that 4,500 children from central Europe will arrive soon on visas granted by the English government.

## Shabbos Candles

Feb. 12..... 6.07 p.m.

Feb. 19..... 6.18 p.m.

Feb. 26..... 6.27 p.m.

March 5 ..... 6.37 p.m.

March 12..... 6.46 p.m.

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### TALMUD TORAH BOARD PRIZES

The Board of the Ottawa Talmud Torah has announced to the pupils that a total of \$50.00 in prizes will be distributed in all classes among those who distinguish themselves in their studies.

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### RABBI TO BE ABSENT IN MAY?

Plans are being made that will probably result in the absence of Rabbi Fasman from the city during the first three weeks in May.

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### THE FREE LOAN ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the Ottawa Hebrew Free Loan Association was held in the Rideau Street Synagogue on Feb. 4, but the report of the proceedings did not reach us in time for publication. The next issue of the Bulletin will carry the details.

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### KOSHER YOUR MEAT!

The patrons of our Kosher markets ought to remember that the meat business today undergoes a heavy strain, and they could help themselves and others to better service, if they would do their own soaking and salting to "kasher" their meat. And, as has been frequently argued in the Bulletin, children ought to see this requirement of ritual law practiced in the home.

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### A SQUADRON LEADER

Ottawa now has a squadron leader in the R.C.A.F. At the close of 1942. Flight Lieutenant Bernard Alexandor, a past president of the Cong. Adath Jeshurun, was advanced to that rank.

## World Leader in Canada

Rabbi Meyer Berlin, the president of the World Mizrahi Organization and one of the three directors of the Keren Kayemeth (Jewish National Fund) will be in Montreal on March 7th and 8th. Having left Eretz Yisroel but a few weeks ago, he brings with him a living message from the heroic Yishub, and the United Zionist Council of Canada plans to welcome him enthusiastically.

It is anticipated that the leaders of all Zionist groups in Ottawa, and especially of the Mizrahi, will travel to Montreal to listen personally to the analysis of problems and hopes that Rabbi Berlin will make.

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### P. O. JOSEPH ASH MISSING.

The Jewish community was deeply grieved to learn that P. O. Joseph Ash, a young man of outstanding ability, was listed by the R.C.A.F. as missing. Ash had earned his commission at the Royal Military College, but, desirous of more action than he expected in the Army, he transferred to the Air Force, and in May he was sent to England.

The announcement that he was missing came only a few weeks after a similar announcement about Sgt. Moses Zumar, the first time that Ottawa Jewish casualties have come so close to one another.

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### PURIM IN SECOND ADAR

Although this is the month of Adar, we shall wait for Purim until Adar Sheni (the second Adar) arrives; we shall read the Megilah, that is, on Saturday night, March 20, and Sunday morning, March 21. The synagogue time schedule will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin. The children of the Ottawa Hebrew Sunday School are already at work on a play, "Purim Pinocchio", under the direction of Mrs. Arthur Silver, to be presented at the Talmud Torah on March 14.

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### SPECIAL LECTURER

The Hebrew Theological College of Chicago has announced the appointment of Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman, of Ottawa, Canada, as a special lecturer in the Department of Theology and Practical Rabbinics.



## Pyrex Dishes Again

In answer to repeated queries, the Rabbi refers to a previous announcement that it is forbidden to use the same glass dish for both meat and milk foods in baking, cooking, or frying.

### PART-TIME SECRETARY WANTED.

The Rabbi is still looking for somebody who can take shorthand and use the typewriter to assist in the Vaad Ha'Ir office from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday to Friday.

### APPRECIATION

Promptly upon learning that he had won a Fifty Dollar Victory Bond, Mr. J. Baker returned it to the Free Loan Association to enroll as members his son, P.O. Eli, and daughter, Annie.

### MACCABEE AIR CADETS PIONEER

For the first time in eastern Ontario an Air Cadet Squadron performed a complicated series of Precision Drill in public on February 7—and the group that turned the trick was our own Jewish Maccabee Squadron. This performance was the highlight in a splendid program, and it helped bring home to a large and attentive audience the importance of Air Cadet work in Canada, and the interest Jewish youth takes in the patriotic aims of our country.

Air Cadet Flight Lieutenant B. Loeb mentioned a fact not yet widely known: seven former Cadets are already on active service.

### CHUMASH HAGIGAH

For the first time in the history of the Ottawa Talmud Torah a holiday will be celebrated in honor of children who begin to study Chumash. An invitation will shortly be issued to the parents of the pupils in the class of Mr. Ben-gali at the main Talmud Torah and of Mr. Shapiro at the Uptown branch to come and witness the "Hagigah" of starting "Breshith". The twenty-four boys and girls who will be in the spotlight have mastered the rudiments of reading and writing Hebrew, and they are sufficiently at home in Hebrew conversation to begin translation "Ivrih b'ivrih."

## U. S. Jewish Chaplain In Africa

Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman read with great interest an item in the first issue of The Jewish Chaplain, a publication of the American Jewish Welfare Board, that describes the work of a fellow theological graduate and a fellow worker in the Chicago Mizrahi movement. It reads:

The "El Moley Rachamim" was chanted by Chaplain Irving Tepper, on duty with the North African forces, at the dedication of the Allied semi-permanent cemetery on the battlefield. As Graves Registration Officer, he has supervised the burial of allied and enemy dead under fire. Chaplain Tepper went "over the net" into the Higgin's landing boat with one of the first invasion parties. He described the African Expeditionary force as the greatest overseas, fully-equipped movement in military history.

### YOUR RABBI SAID

The Jewish problem has been the slow leak of civilization: many thought the tire of progress was well-inflated and could roll forward, without realizing that mistreating a tiny group was the pin-hole through which all the air would escape.

Interest in Yeshiboth and institutions of higher Jewish learning is like the feather we put to the nostrils of a dying man; when it no longer stirs life is gone.

From Stalingrad we gather that the German generals who warned against going too far into Russia, because they took account of objective realities, were wiser than the Fuehrer, who thought a war can be waged on the subjective basis of intuition; and similarly, we cannot instill into our youth unselfish idealism and communal spirit by a mysterious automatic process, for what is required is a system of concrete social organizations that will shape their inner yearnings into generous activity.

To be indebted to the community as a whole breeds less servility than to be indebted to one individual.

The synagogue is like the first incandescent lamp Thomas Edison invented; all the lights we enjoy today must be traced back to the original source of illumination.

## What Is Prayer

Rabbi Morris Max, who spoke in Ottawa synagogues a few years ago, has just written an essay, "The Torah's Method of Prayer", in which there occurs the following analysis:

"To the average Jew prayer is one of the easiest religious functions. According to him, anyone who knows how to read Hebrew can open a prayer book and easily run through the required prayers. To the religious soul, however, daily prayer is something more than the superficial fulfillment of a religious duty or even the offering of a supplication for material happiness. To him it is the grand opportunity which the soul seeks for coming in close touch with its Creator."

### J. N. F. COUNCIL ELECTS

At a special meeting of the United Council of the Jewish National Fund held in the Adath Jeshurun Synagogue on February 9th, officers were chosen for 1943 as follows:

Hon. Chairman, A. J. Freiman.

Hon. Vice-Chairman, Rabbi O. Z. Fasman.

Chairman, L. S. Greenberg.

Vice-Chairmen, Alex. Betcherman, Mrs. N. Slone.

Treasurer, S. Lepofsky.

Secretary, Miss Eva Cornblat.

Directors, Alex. Caplan, Leo Goldstein.

Considerable attention was devoted to the problem of box collections, which have been somewhat neglected because of the difficulty in obtaining teams. The meeting felt, however, that for the coming months the method of a monthly house to house collection would be continued, and that people should wait for the team assigned to their district rather than bring their boxes to organization meetings. The contributors have the right to indicate to the collectors the organization to whose credit their box is to be recorded, and the books are so kept.

This year the major project of the J. N. F. is the Palestine Soldier's Land Fund, which proposes to buy 5,000 dunams of land in Eretz Yisroel to be given to demobilized soldiers at the conclusion of the war. As a logical part of post-war reconstruction, this program will undoubtedly gain wholehearted support, and the different Zionist groups in Ottawa are expected to redeem a proportionate number of dunams.